GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:37
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
NUMBER OF VILLAGES WITHOUT TELEPHONE
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of villages in the country are still without a telephone;

(b) if so, the number of such villages, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out plans to cover all the villages in the country with public telephones; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 37 FOR 19TH FEBRUARY, 2003 REGARDING NUMBER OF VILLAGES WITHOUT TELEPHONE.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As on 31.01.2003 there are 96363 revenue villages as per 1991 census still to be covered with a village public telephone. State-wise details of VPT provided by BSNL & Private licensees are given in Annexure.

(c) & (d): One of the objectives of NTP-99 was to achieve telecom coverage of all villages by 2002.But due to security reasons in North Eastern states and Jammu & Kashmir and financing problem of satellite based telephones and poor performance by Private Basic Service Operators, this could not be achieved.All the revenue villages referred to in answer to (a) & (b) except those which have to be provided through satellite, are expected to be covered by the close of 2003.

ANNEXURE

STATE-WISE STATUS OF VPTs AS ON 31-01-2003

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of villages	Total No. of VPTs provided by BSNL as on 31.1.2003	Total No. of VPTs provided by Private Licencee as on 31.1.2003	Uncovered Villages as on 31.1.2003
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	201	197	4	
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	29460	23419	1314	4727
3	ASSAM	24685	17984	6701	
4	BIHAR	41077	38370	2707	
5	JHARKHAND	31703	26270	5433	
6	GUJARAT	18125	11214	3564	3347
7	HARYANA	#6850	6811	0	
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	16925	16585	340	
9	JAMMU & KASHMIR	6764	4096	2668	
10	KARNATAKA	27066	27065	1	
11	KERALA	1468	1468	0	
12	MADHYA PRADESH	51806	37597	348	13861
13	CHHATISGARH	19720	14633	5087	
14	MAHARASHTRA	42467	31541	1127	9799
15	NORTH-EAST-I				
	Meghalaya	5555	1642	3913	
	Mizoram	708	603	105	

Tripura 862 748 114
16NORTH-EAST-II

Arunachal Pradesh 3389 711 2678

Manipur 2439 766 1673

Nagaland 1192 808 384

17ORISSA 46989 40342 6647
18PUNJAB 12687 12687 830+ 0
19RAJASTHAN 39483 23858 721 14904
20TAMILNADU 17899 17899 0
21UTTAR PRADESH 103396 97170 6226
22UTTARANCHAL 15610 11597 4013
23WEST BENGAL 38347 37369 978
24SIKKIM 427 374 53 25
DELHI 191 191 0

Total 607491 504015 7074 96363

+ In Punjab all the villages covered are replacement only. # 39 villages in Haryana are uninhabited.